

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-12 are pending in this application. In this Amendment, claim 12 has been added to reintroduce the subject matter of previously-cancelled claim 3, and claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended to reintroduce the feature wherein A may be selected from the group including -CO-.

No new matter is contained in the amendments presented herein.

Applicants' Comments Regarding U.S. Patent No. 6,926,984 (Asano et al.)

In the Office Action dated July 19, 2007, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Asano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,926,984).

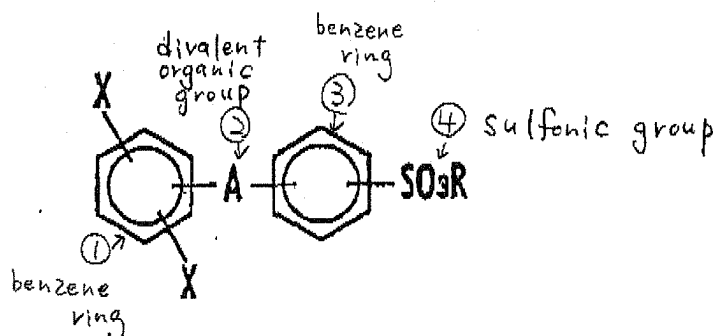
Applicants submit that claims 1-2 and 4-12 presented above are not anticipated by Asano et al.

Asano et al. was previously cited for allegedly disclosing in Example 1 an ion-conducting, aromatic polymer membrane made of a sulfonated polyarylene represented by Formula (4), which is formed into a polymer electrolyte membrane (1). Diffusion layers (21, 31) were also formed. Catalyst particles comprising platinum carried on furnace black at a weight ratio of furnace black:platinum of 1:1 were uniformly mixed with a solution of an ion-conducting binder to prepare a catalyst paste where the platinum content was 0.5 mg/cm² and then formed into catalyst layers (22, 32). The polymer electrolyte membrane (1) is sandwiched by the catalytic layers (22, 32).

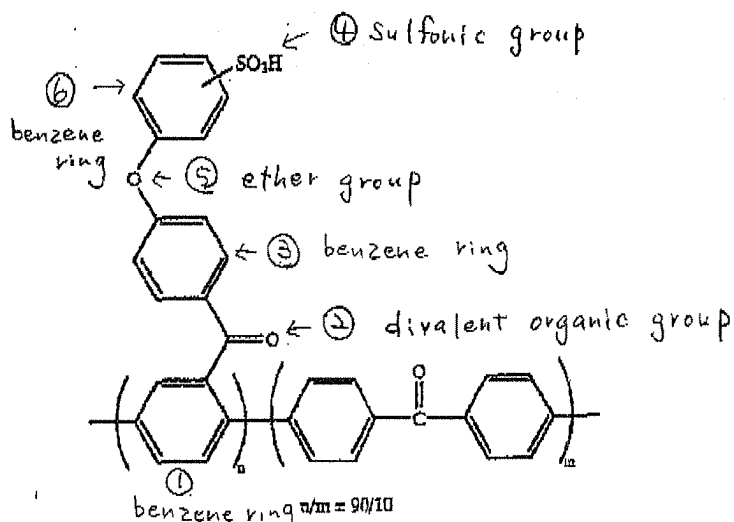
Applicants present the following comments comparing the sulfonated polyarylenes of claims 1 and 5-7 with those disclosed by Asano et al.

The side chains of the present application are different from those set forth in Asano et al. Side chains 5 (ether group) and 6 (benzene ring) of Asano et al. are not included in side chains of the present application. That is to say, the side chain of present application includes 2 (divalent organic group) next to 1 (benzene ring) connected to the main chain, which includes 3 (benzene ring) and 4 (sulfonic group).

On the other hand, the side chain of Asano et al. consists of 2 (divalent organic group) next to 1 (benzene ring) connected to the main chain, which consists of 3 (benzene ring), 5 (ether group), 6 (benzene ring), and 4 (sulfonic group). Therefore, Applicants submit that even if A is -CO-, the features of these side chains are different.



Side Chain of the Present Application



Side Chain of Asano et al. (see Formula 4)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Asano et al. fails to disclose all features of the pending claims.

**Statement Regarding Common Ownership of
U.S. Patent No. 6,926,984 (Asano et al.)**

Applicants submit that Asano et al. cannot be used in rejecting claims 1-2 and 4-12 for obviousness, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Applicants hereby state that Asano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,926,984) and the present application (U.S. Appl. No. 10/714,394) were, at the time the invention of U.S. Appl. No. 10/714,394 was made, both commonly owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1-2 and 4-11, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are required in connection with this Amendment. However, if additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number **101175-00037**.

Respectfully submitted,



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